

# FANTASTIC FOUR

MARVEL 21  
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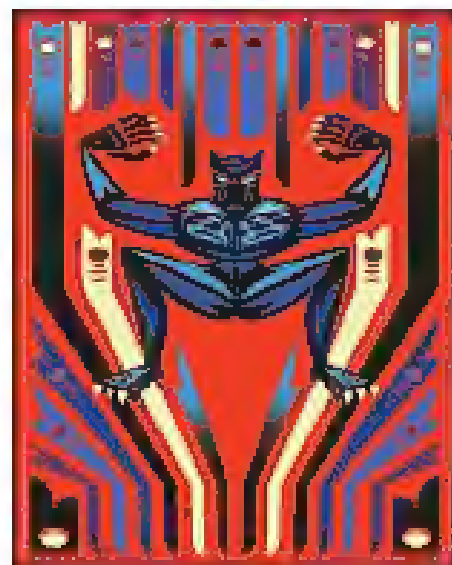
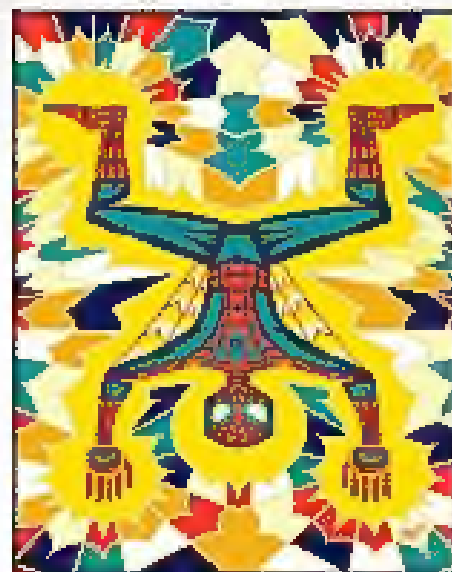
RATED T+

BLOOD HUNT

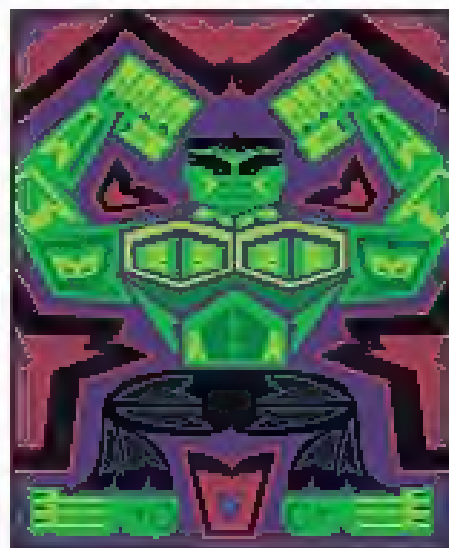
TIE-IN

NORTH • FIORELLI • ABURTOV

# JEFFREY VEREGGE



Jeffrey Veregge, 50, passed away April 12, 2024, after a courageous battle with lupus. A member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Veregge created a style he called "Salish geek," which combined Native American art, graphic design and comic-book heroes. His striking covers on *Fed Wolf* and *Heroes Reborn* stood out from everything else on comic shelves. In 2018, The Smithsonian opened Veregge's exhibition "Of Gods and Heroes," which included his epic mural for the Museum of the Native American in New York. His work on comic covers and in public spaces leaves a fantastic legacy that will long be remembered. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.



Here  
they  
are...

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characters, persons, and/or  
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is intended, and any such  
similarity which may exist is  
purely coincidental.

After a period of upheaval and the temporary loss of their  
Baxter Building headquarters, the Fantastic Four are all now  
living together at the Grimm  
family farmstead in Arizona.

**"TO CURSE THE  
DARKNESS!"**

writer: RYAN NORTH  
artist: IVAN FIORELLI

color artist: JESUS ABURTUV  
letterer: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

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publisher: MARVEL  
executive vice president:  
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

REED RICHARDS  
MR. FANTASTIC

SUSAN RICHARDS  
THE INVISIBLE  
WOMAN

JOHNNY STORM  
THE HUMAN  
TORCH

& ALICIA  
MASTERS-  
GRIMM

Together,  
they are the

**FANTASTIC**  
FOUR



Panel 1:

Ben: I'm not, but—it's good to stretch my horizons every now and then. And I need supplies from the Baxter Building too, which—

Ned: He's interested in the artwork.

Ben: The translation process, yes.

Panel 2:

Ned: Plus new 3-D paintings by blind artists. There's a ton of exciting work happening at the intersection of sculpture and visual art.

Panel 3:

Ned: Next! Never see you as much of a museum guy, Reed.

Ben: Ben said the same thing, which suggests I have work to do, we'll tell you all about it tonight.

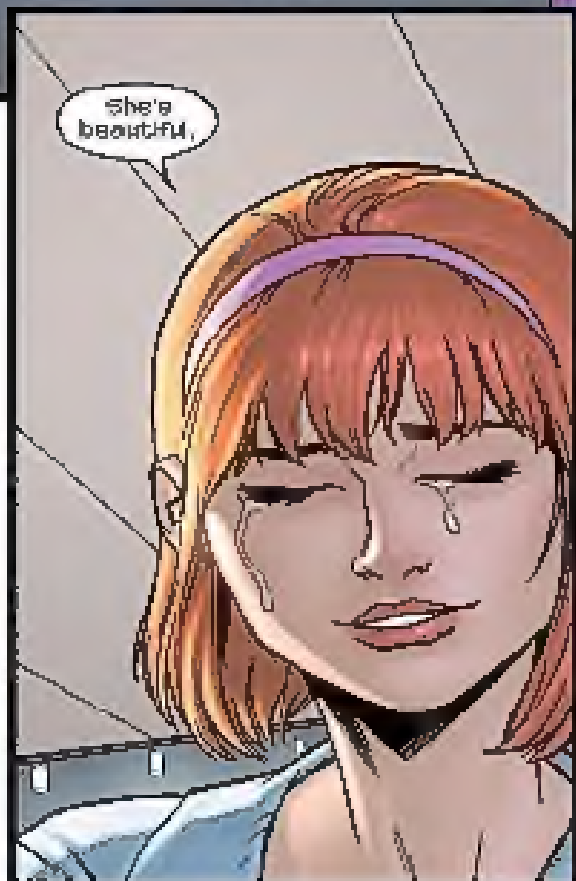
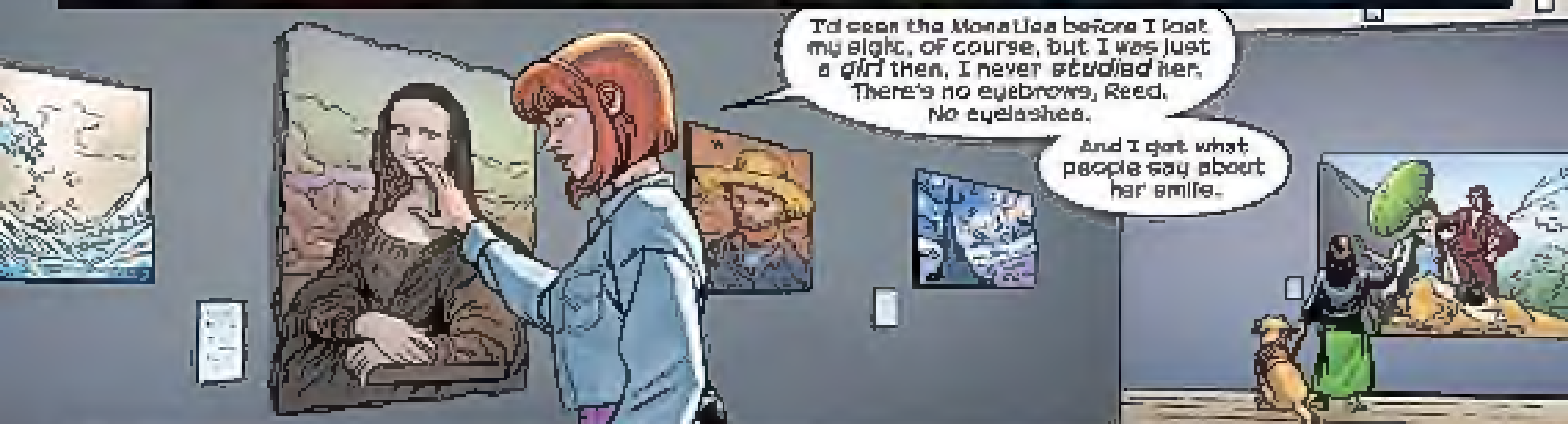
Woman: Don't be late—I'm makin' Great-Great Gramma Grimm's world-famous hoagies for dinner!

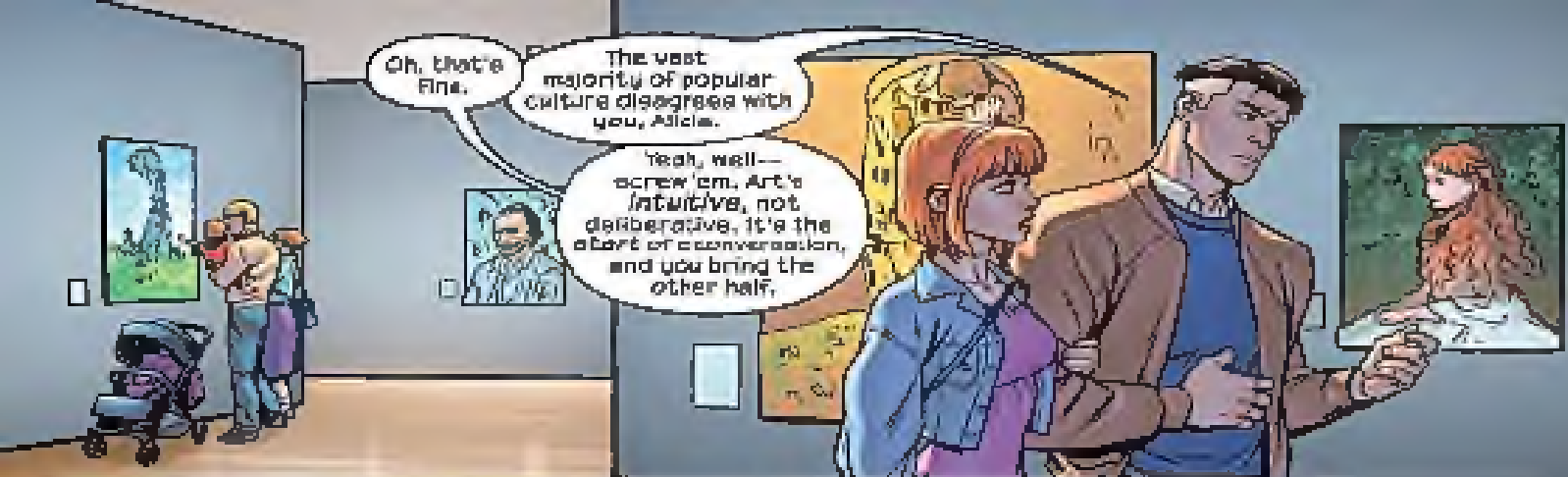
Wouldn't miss it, babe.

Love you,  
Miss you  
and see you  
soon.

**SVRRRRRRRR**

Love you,  
Miss you  
and see you  
soon.

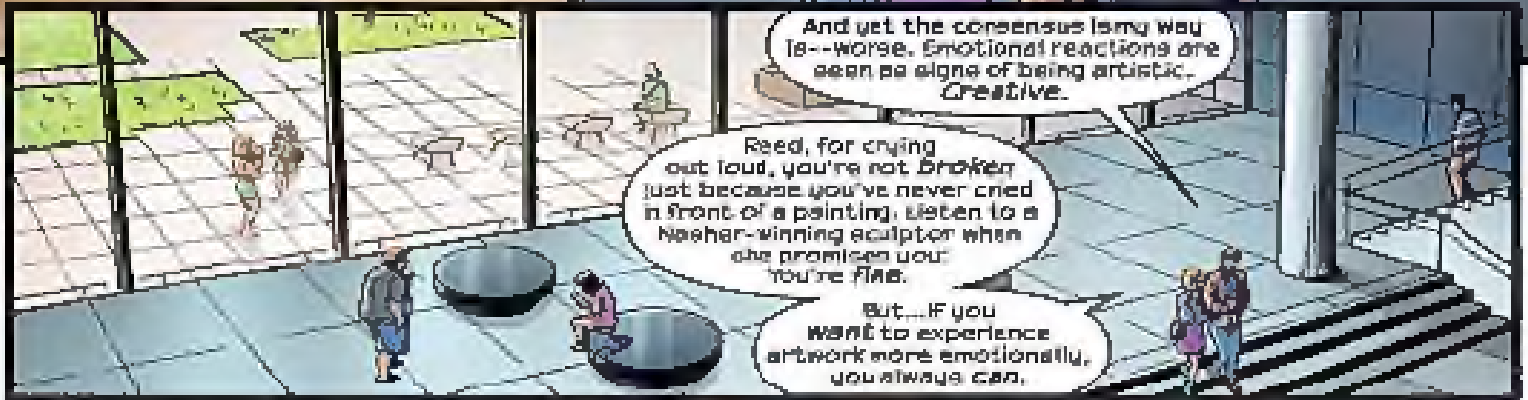




Oh, that's fine.

The vast majority of popular culture disagrees with you, Alicia.

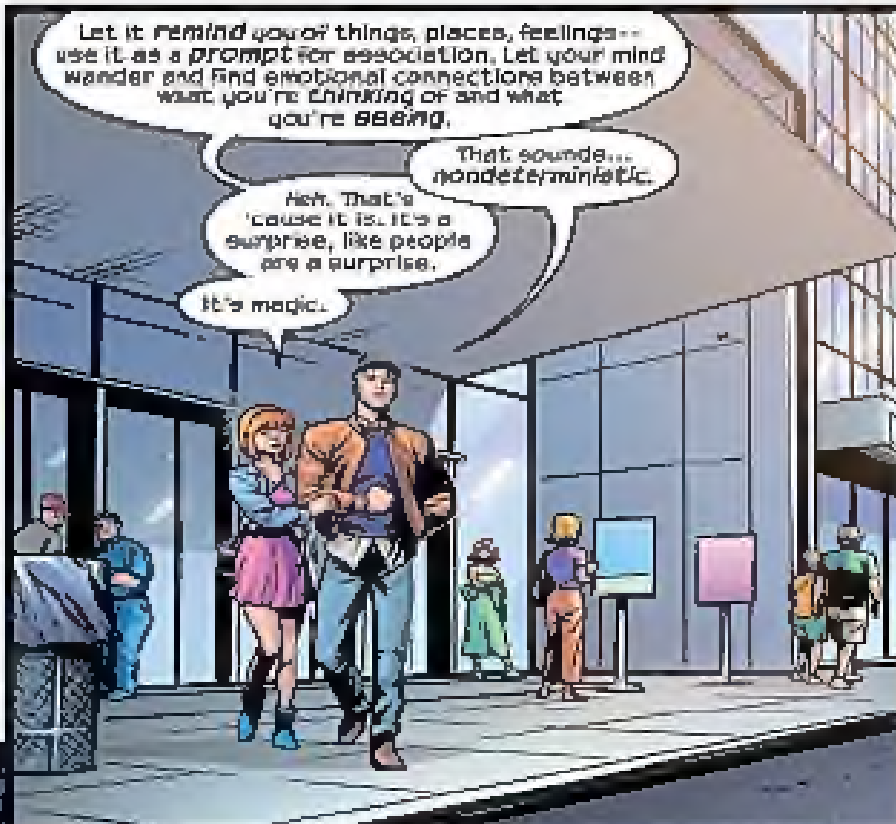
Yeah, well—screw 'em. Art's *intuitive*, not *deliberative*. It's the *start* of a conversation, and you bring the other half.



And yet the consensus long way is—worse. Emotional reactions are seen as signs of being artistic. *Creative*.

Reed, for crying out loud, you're not *broken* just because you've never cried in front of a painting. Listen to a heather-winning sculptor when she promises you: *you're fine*.

But...if you *want* to experience artwork more emotionally, you *always* can.



Let it *remind* you of things, places, feelings—use it as a *prompt* for association. Let your mind wander and find emotional connections between what you're *thinking* of and what you're *seeing*.

That sounds... *non-deterministic*.

Heh. That's 'cause it is. It's a surprise, like people are a surprise.

It's magic.



Well, I'm much less comfortable with *magic* than I am with predictable outputs from reliable inputs. But you know what?

I'll give it a try next time we—



That's strange. The sun's gone, Alicia. Everything's in *darkness*.

No.

Yeah, I feel it. Sudden cloud cover?

REED RICHARDS AND  
ALICIA MASTERS-GRIMM IN:

# "TO CURSE THE DARKNESS!"

No, I  
think it's  
worse than  
that.







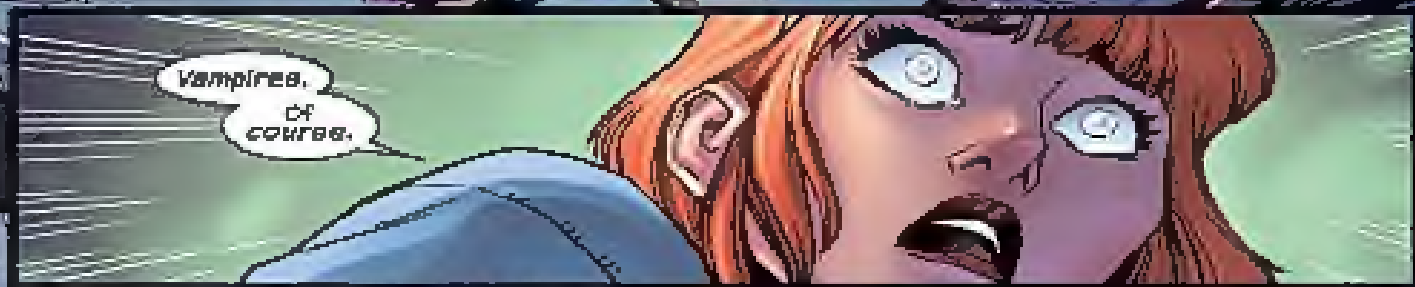




There're people running out of the darkness, and they're—they're blind other people!

Like zombies?

No—they're not tearing flesh, it's more like they're...drinking blood?



Vampires, of course.



Vampires are mythical creatures, Alicia—they don't--

Yeah, and you've teamed up with Ghost Rider and still say ghosts aren't real if it walks like a vampire and bites like a vampire...

Fair, in any case, my flexible skin can't be pierced by bites. And if that can protect me...



...then it can protect you as well!

Appreciate it, but you gotta save the others too!

I assure you, Alicia...



...I'm working on it.



But there are an unexpectedly high number---



SMACK!

SMACK!

...of assistants.

SMACK!

SMACK!

SMACK!

SMACK!

Wait---crazy idea, but how big can you stretch?

It depends on the depth of my flesh and the complexity of the shape, the internal supports I need to maintain, and, of course, it comes with risks that rise in proportion with---

What if you had a framework though? Like, say...



...a framework?

And so,

I only wish we could've saved more.

Oh man, Reed, you did what you could.

And because of that, we've saved dozens who would've otherwise been bitten by the vampires.

By individuals exhibiting vampire-like qualities, yes.

And whose genes also seem to produce beings with ~~identical vampire~~ like qualities.

The power appears to be out at least in this area. This is madness. An attack of this scale and so sudden, it's impossible.

So nothing you haven't dealt with before, then.

Heh.

I appreciate it, Alicia, you keeping my spirits up. But right now, we're at an impasse.

The city is overrun with 'em. We'll call them 'vampires' as a convenient shorthand, and with cell service down, we can't even confirm that people outside the museum still exist.

On one hand, New York has historically attracted an anomalous and statistically significant share of events like this. But on the other hand, we have no data.

What is happening here could be happening worldwide. And if it is,

then how are our families doing?

We can't  
down do not hide  
stay behind me  
yeah"

At least we  
know what we really  
can't stand. He can. But  
that sunlight's getting  
amplified.

Thanks,  
Johnny.  
I noticed.

Those clouds have to be  
performing energy. They're  
fighting me.

It's taking all  
I have just to make a small  
section transparent enough  
to let light through. I'm not  
gaining any ground.

If we're  
alone, surrounded by  
vampires and losing  
what little sunlight  
we have left.

And I don't  
think I'm losing the  
Darkforce off for  
much longer.

Are we  
gonna die,  
Daddy?


No. We're not dying  
or losing or anything.  
We're inside the sun. We  
can always make a force  
field around us.

And then,  
and I promise you  
this part. We'll  
be something  
we always do.

Right? Get in closer  
the closer, the  
lighter.

Dead. I  
think it  
something.

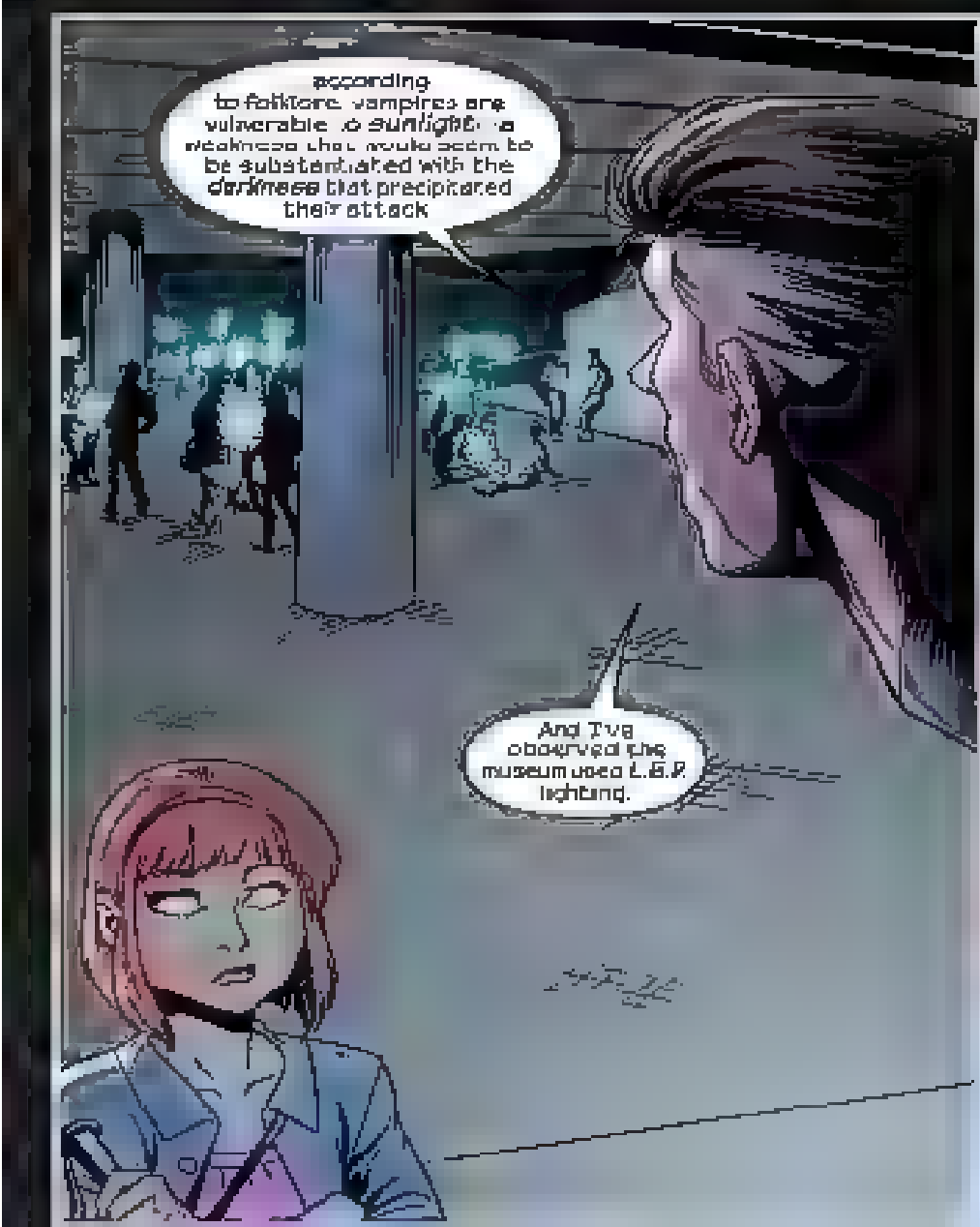




There have to be other survivors in the city.


Agreed, but even if I ignore my usual safety thresholds, there's still only so far I can stretch with most of my body left here. Plus, the number of attempted bites on my flesh is increasing.

If there was only some way others could search without getting bit.



According to folklore, vampires are vulnerable to sunlight, a weakness that would seem to be substantiated with the darkness that precipitated their attack.

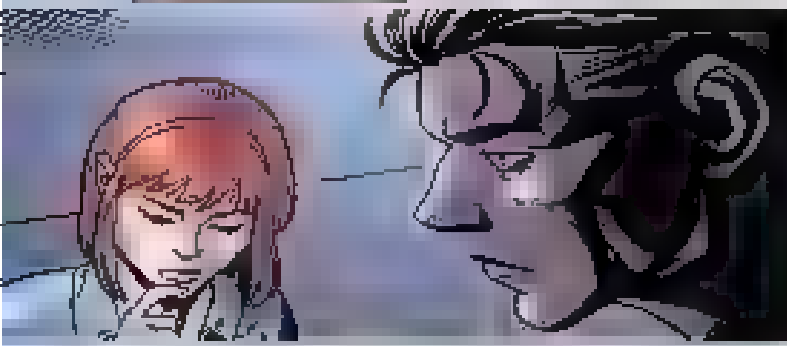
And I've observed the museum used L.E.D. lighting.



If I could modify those diodes to emit full-spectrum light structurally identical to the sun's spectrographic signature.

then that'd give us a defense. We could save everyone, at least until help arrives.

I love it.



Assume, just for the sake of argument, that these really are magical vampires identical to those described in folklore. The second law of thermodynamics is of course wildly incompatible with physical immortality.



Well. There may be something



Read.

But.



I'll get the survivors searching the museum for batteries and anything else you need.

I'll stretch down to the basement and get up a makeshift 1st

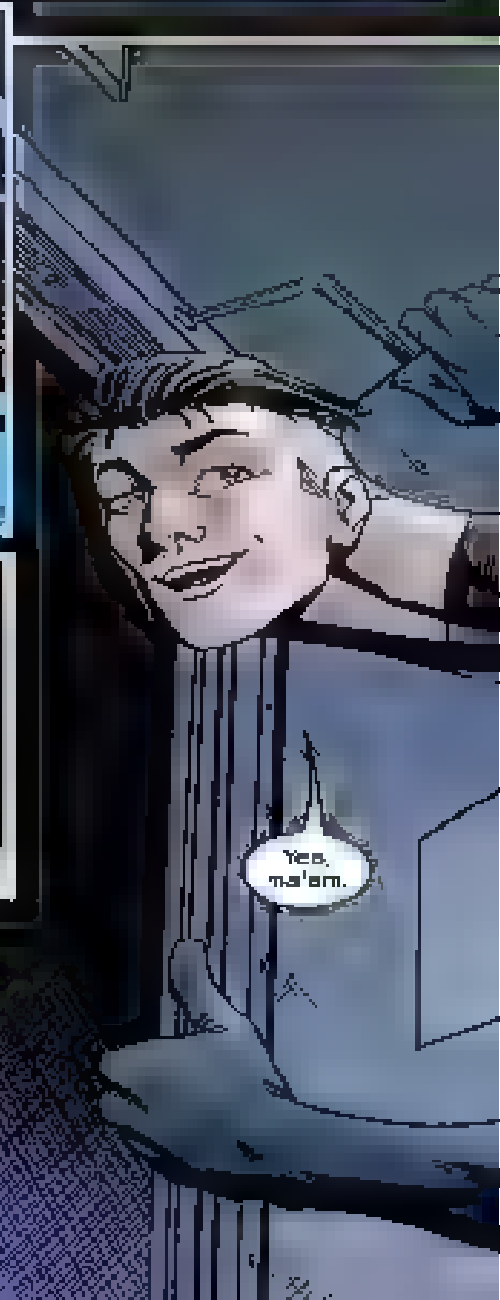


And hey, Reed?

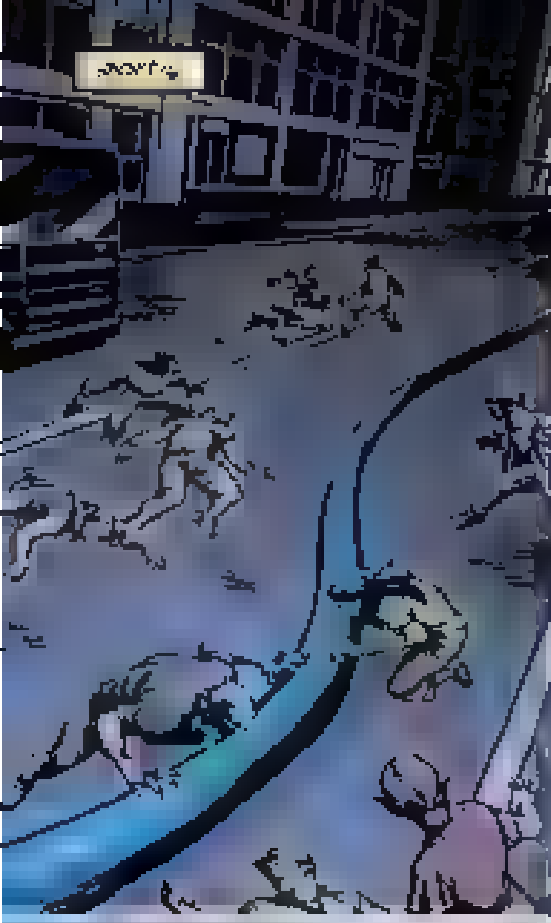
Yes, Allison?



I don't wanna ever catch you saying you're not creative again



Yes, ma'am.



page 16



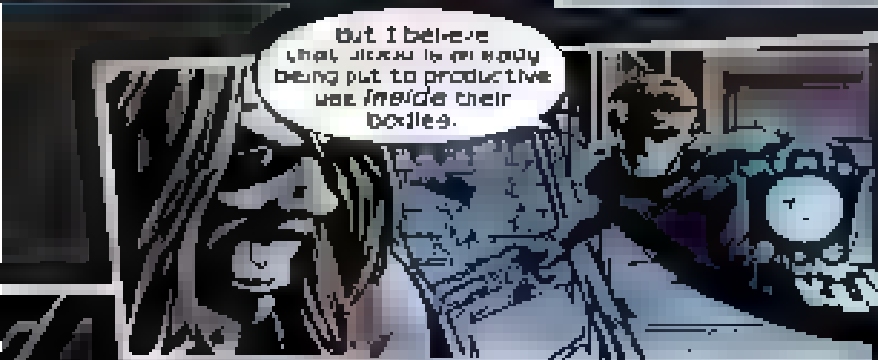
No  
Please  
No!



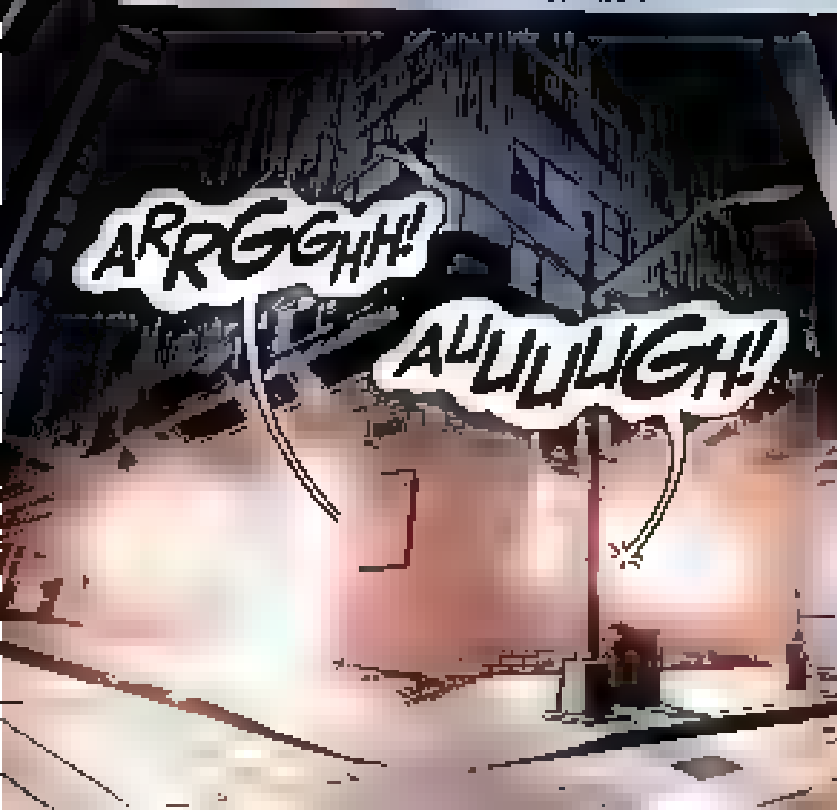
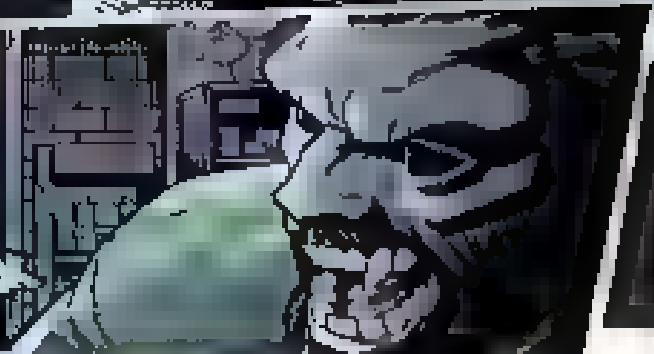
There's  
nowhere left  
to run!

And you  
all started so  
fresh!

Excuse  
me

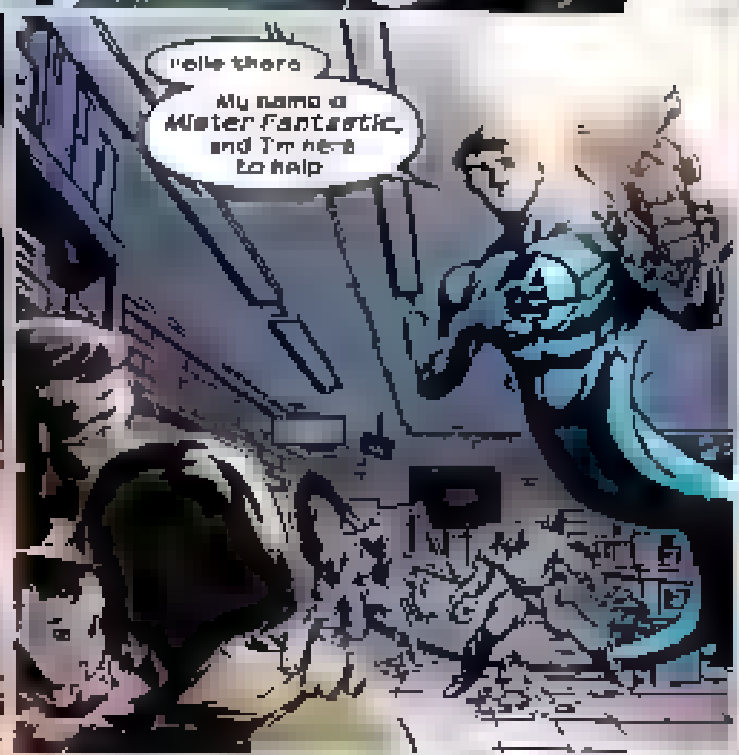


but I believe  
that ideas to properly  
being put to productive  
use inside their  
boxes.



ARRGGHH!

ALLLUGH!



hello there

My name is  
Mister Fantastic,  
and I'm here  
to help



Three more survivors incoming, Alicia. ETA thirty seconds

Good work. We've got three more teams with ten more survivors heading back too



I'm bringing them into the building now

Welcome. You're safe here and we're going to keep you that way

If you know of anyone else out there let us know and we'll go for them next



That was a successful run

You're doing great, Reed which ironically gives us a new problem. We need power. We need batteries.

and very soon we're also going to need more space.



But I spy in my mind's little eye something that's defensible just a half hour walk away. Fits twenty thousand people easy and has a generator

Which we could use to power all those big bright L.E.D. lights it has inside and running along its circumference

Precisely



Spread the word, and let us get the survivors supplied and ready.

We're moving to Madison Square Garden.



Times Square. And we're halfway there.

I believe this is going to work.

Told ya it would. Now are you holding up?

Surfing it, so say I'm glad I won't have to stretch quite so far shortly. But even so, the stadium is just a band-aid. We still need a cure.

A cure for a magical curse that lets you be dead, but also alive, but also gross, but also some people find you really sexy anyway.

You want to solve vampirism.

You've have artificial sunlight, obviously, but that's only a cure for vampirism in the sense that a gun is a cure for cancer. I believe we can save the newly infected, help them recover.

I can fix what I can understand, but a magical blood curse..

It doesn't make sense. I can't understand it because it doesn't fit in with the rest of my knowledge.

Everything I know says it's impossible. How can one bite possibly accomplish what it does and so quickly? What are the rules that we need to operate under?

Well then I have some good news. Mr. Fantastic, you already know the rules. They're the same as they always were.

Do good. Save everyone.

And make sure you leave the universe a brighter place than you found it.

I've got both exterior and interior lights modified, and the generator's running

but the system's still offline. 10m

Of course. The wires must lead to a control room in the suspension roof utility space

Can you reach them?

I believe so. A quick scratch up..

Or

with some pain. I'm already well past what I'd normally consider my limits here

And all we need is to flip a switch.

CHUNK

Alice Masters-Grimm.

I believe we have ourselves a fortress of light.

That night

Peed?  
Are you  
awake?

I am. I am remarkable. The  
unprecedented stretching today  
was such. But my usual arm feels  
like a panacea. But I'm still having  
trouble falling asleep.

If it was just New York that was  
attacked, we'd have heard  
something by now. There'd  
be a rescue.

My thoughts have  
been avoiding along similar  
lines. Given the atmospheric  
changes, this may  
be worldwide.

Open

Someday. But  
this is the first chance  
I've really had to think since  
this whole thing's started. To  
process. Process all that's  
happened.

do you think  
our children  
are dead?

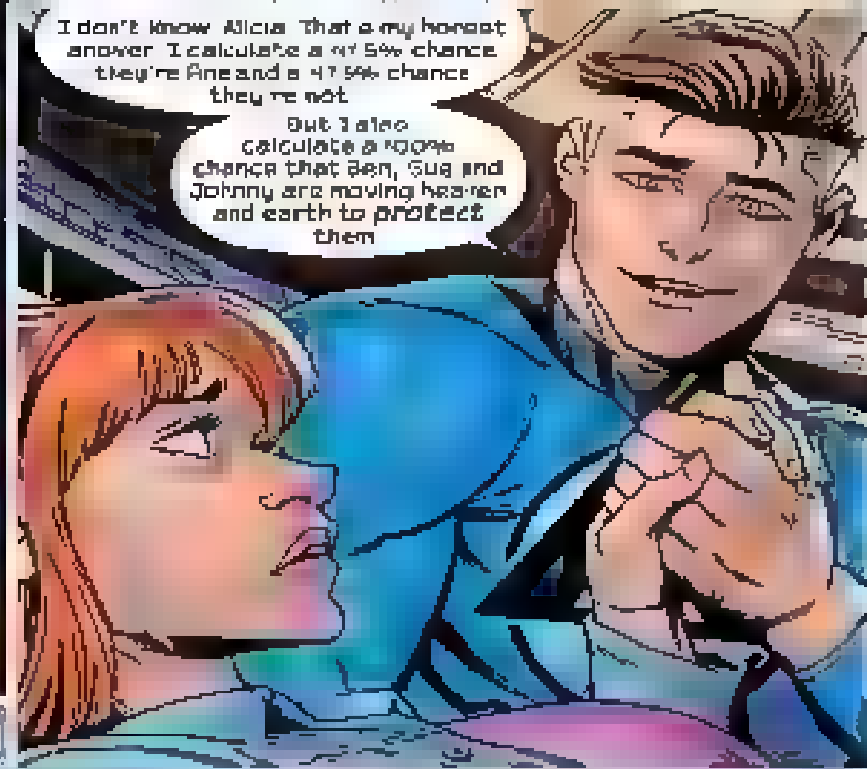
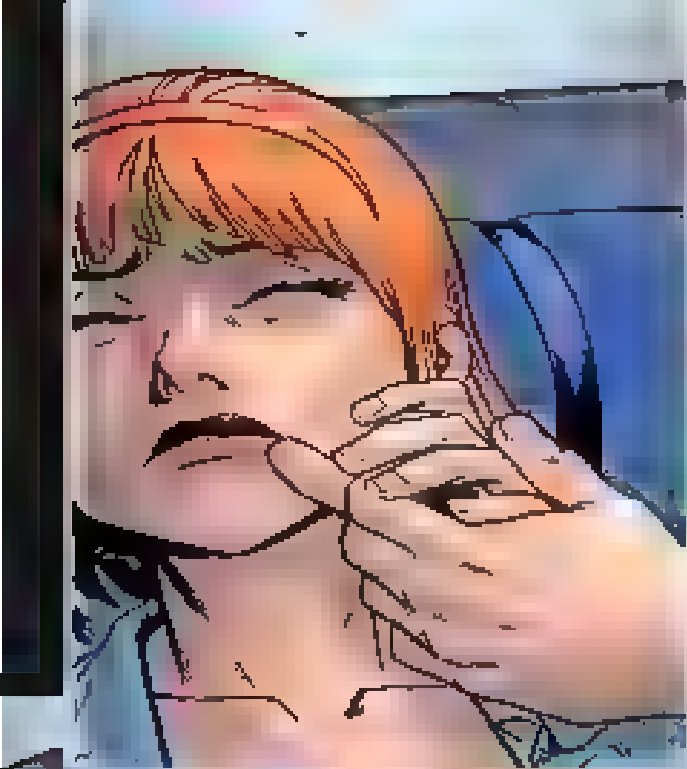
Ben will be fine  
nobody's going through his  
skin. And Sue has her force  
field, and Johnny has his  
fire but

but  
our kids are  
just kids.

They're  
just

They're just  
kids, and they haven't  
done anything and we  
just got them back  
and they

they



I don't know Alicia. That's my honest answer. I calculate a 47.5% chance they're fine and a 47.5% chance they're not.

But I also calculate a 100% chance that Ben, Gus and Johnny are moving heaven and earth to protect them.



I know  
I know

Thank you,  
Read. For  
reassuring me.  
It means  
a lot.

You're  
welcome



What's that  
47.5% chance  
for?

A situation wherein  
Tony becomes vampirized  
through inattention, Evil Vampire  
Johnny realizes that flaming on would  
burn off his infection and so the  
others have to find various ways  
to flick him into  
flaming on.



Ah, Yeah.  
Me that should  
be closer to  
20%.

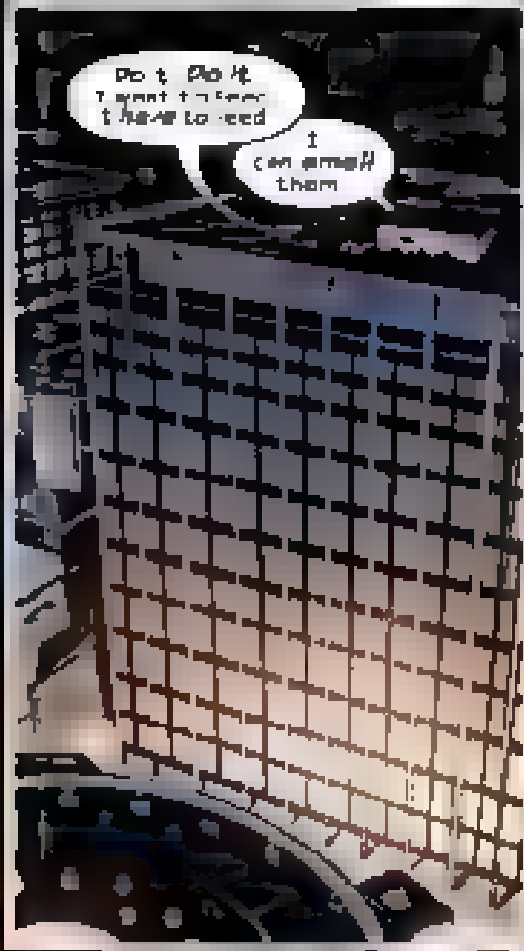
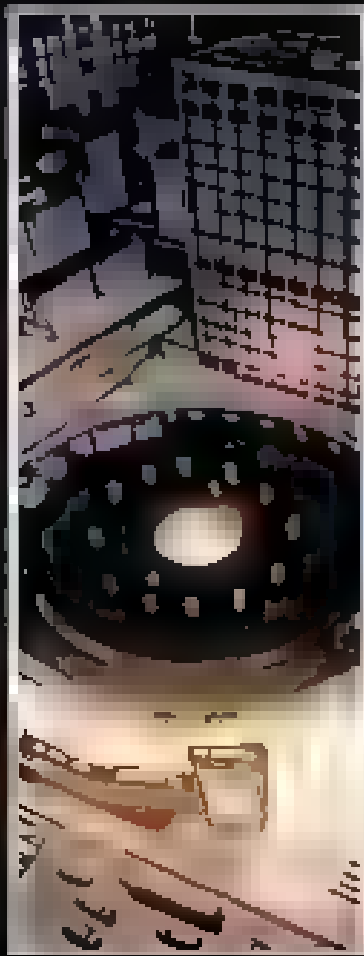
I'll  
reevaluate my  
probabilities

Good night,  
Read

Good night  
Alicia.







Do it Do it  
I want to know  
there to need

I  
can smash  
them



So many  
warm bodies  
A lot of a hot  
blood so  
many

The light  
will burn us  
we'll die

One of  
us will



ALL OF US  
WON'T!



ARRRGHHH!



AGGGHHH!

AHHHGH!



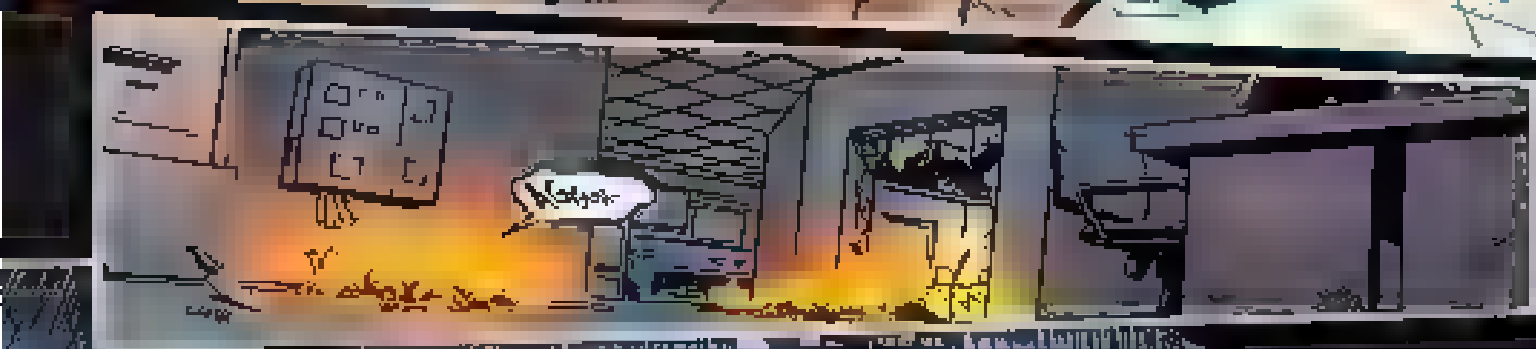
Through the door it  
in! in!



ARRRGH!



ARRRGH!



Wah



CHHRRRRNNNN



**CONTINUED  
NEXT MONTH!**

# BLOOD HUNT

## CHECKLIST

### JUNE

- ☒ **BLOOD HUNT #3**
- ☒ **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #3**
- ☒ DRACULA: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☒ X-MEN: BLOOD HUNT – JUBILEE #1
- ☒ UNION JACK THE RIPPER: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☒ DOCTOR STRANGE #16
- ☒ VENGEANCE OF THE MOON KNIGHT #6
- ☒ FANTASTIC FOUR #21
- ☐ WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ☐ BLOOD HUNTERS #2
- ☐ STRANGE ACADEMY: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☐ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #21
- ☐ VENOM #34
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☐ AVENGERS #15
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☐ MIDNIGHT SONS: BLOOD HUNT #2
- ☐ **BLOOD HUNT #4**
- ☐ **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #4**
- ☐ X-MEN: BLOOD HUNT – MAGIK #1
- ☐ WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #2

### JULY

- ☐ BLACK PANTHER: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ BLOOD HUNTERS #3
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #17
- ☐ DRACULA: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #22
- ☐ WEREWOLF BY NIGHT: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ☐ AVENGERS #16
- ☐ HULK: BLOOD HUNT #1
- ☐ UNION JACK THE RIPPER: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ BLOOD HUNTERS #4
- ☐ X-MEN: BLOOD HUNT – LAURA KINNEY THE WOLVERINE #1
- ☐ **BLOOD HUNT #5**
- ☐ **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #5**
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #22
- ☐ MIDNIGHT SONS: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ STRANGE ACADEMY: BLOOD HUNT #3
- ☐ VENGEANCE OF THE MOON KNIGHT #7
- ☐ WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #4



# FANTASTIC FAN PAGE

Dear FF Team,

I will try to be brief. I really enjoy the current run. I have been continuously reading the stories of the First Family from the mid-eighties but it was issue #707 that made me write my first letter to Marvel. Being a university professor whose research field is chaotic dynamics, I thought it would have "the usual superficial approach to chaos" when the butterfly effect was brought up in that issue. But I was positively surprised when Reed said, "...increasing Earth's Lyapunov prediction time..." (which, to the nonexperts, is a real term!), because it shows that Ryan indeed did his job engaging a bit more with chaos theory! That was fun! Well done: A+.

Haris Skokas  
University of Cape Town  
South Africa

Ryan always does his homework, Haris, and he's a good sight smarter and better read than most of the rest of us Marvel madmen!

Hi, guys.

I felt I needed to write to you after reading what Damir Segon wrote in the letters page of FF #15. Damir said that this latest series doesn't feel like the FF he grew up with in the eighties, and, in particular, that the characters don't look like themselves. He also said that he assumed that the people who were enjoying this run and saying so were "much younger" than him and enjoying "their FF" – a rather condescending comment that I take great exception to. So, for the record: I'm a 54-year-old Marvelite (yes, old enough to remember when that term was a thing) who's been reading FF since the mid-seventies, and I have been absolutely loving this series. As for the art, it's some of the best Marvel is currently publishing. I absolutely do recognize these characters, so please don't let them go anywhere anytime soon.

Tony Ingram  
Suffolk, UK

Appreciate your support, Tony!  
(And yours too, Damir!)

Dear FF team,

I've been hearing the hype about Sue's special issue for a while now, and after reading it the mystery conclusion was satisfactory! It felt like it began with a real "The FF Files" energy, just getting chills from introducing something that should be impossible. This issue also really highlighted everyone's love and respect for Alicia and how she's been so well written and truly part of the team in this run! It was lovely to see Reed and Sue use the time platform for their date. The scene with Sue using binoculars and Reed going awooga eyes like a cartoon wolf at the historic event was funny. Cannot stress enough how Ryan North's prior research and science and dinosaur writing background brings great energy to their episodic adventures.

Lan Li  
Chicago, IL

And now, this month's brief word concerning the debate of our era:

Hello, F4 Team,

Johnny needs to keep the mustache. 'Nuff said.

Thanks for the great comic,

Michael Lederhas

'Nuff said indeed, Michael!

Hi, people!

My god, Rama-Tut is such a moron!

So, he has decided the best way to get rid of the FF is to eradicate the first immigrants to America? In other words, to eradicate all those we call Native Americans?

Okay.

Did he consider that the FF is very likely of European stock, of those who came in from the Mayflower onward? And that, while history will most certainly be impacted by the absence of a native population, it probably won't affect too much of the history of science in the Marvel Universe? So, while the FF themselves won't exist as they are, there's a good probability that science will progress at about the same pace and that there might be similar circumstances that will lead to the emergence of a similar group of super-powered people?

Not likely, you say?

Granted.

But has clever genius Rama-Tut remembered that HE comes from the future and from a future America too, and that there's a very, very good chance that, by drastically altering the past, he's going to eradicate himself?

Whatta moron! 🤔

Mind you, Rama-Tut is basically a rich thug, who found some plans for a working time machine. One should not be too surprised if his long-range thinking is not too sharp.

Patrick Marcel

Aw, I think poor ol' Rama-Tut is a bit smarter than that, Patrick. After all, he eventually turns into Kang the Conqueror, a legitimate threat of a villain. But everybody's got to start someplace.

Tom B  
4/22/24

As always, if you've got an opinion to share, you can email it to us at [MHeroes@MARVEL.COM](mailto:MHeroes@MARVEL.COM). Be sure to mark your letters as "Okay To Print!" if you'd like to see them featured here on the Fan Page!

# BLOOD HUNT TIE-IN!

NEXT:

